



BNP PARIBAS REAL ESTATE

Secretary of State for Transport
c/o Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

By email only:

transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk

Derry Mockett
Director
BNP Paribas Real Estate
Portwall Place,
Portwall Lane,
Bristol BS1 6NA
Tel: 0117 456 4519
Switchboard: 0117 984 8400
Fax: 0117 984 8401

Email: derry.mockett@realestate.bnpparibas

Your ref:
Our ref:

8 July 2021

Dear Sirs

The Northumberland Line TWA Order.

Under section 35 of the Postal Services Act 2011, Royal Mail has been designated by Ofcom as a provider of the Universal Postal Service. Our client, Royal Mail Group Limited (RMG), is responsible for providing efficient mail sorting and delivery nationally. As the Universal Service Provider under the Postal Services Act 2011, Royal Mail Group has a statutory duty to deliver mail to every residential and business address in the country as well as collecting mail from all Post Offices and post boxes six days a week.

RMG's postal sorting and delivery operations rely heavily on road communications. RMG's ability to provide efficient mail collection, sorting and delivery to the public is sensitive to changes in the capacity of the highway network. Accordingly, RMG seeks to take all reasonable steps to protect its assets and operational interests from any potentially adverse impacts of proposed development.

Disruption to the highway network can have direct consequences on RMG's operations, affecting its ability to meet its Universal Postal Service Obligation and its ability to comply with the regulatory regime for postal services. This can, therefore, present a significant risk to RMG's business.

Whilst my client understands the requirements for Northumberland County Council (NCC) to undertake the works as described in the proposed Northumberland Line Order, in order to fully understand the impact of works in particular with regard to the bridge replacement of the level crossing on the A1061 in Newsham my client requires more detailed information regarding potential road diversions and traffic management measures in order they can mitigate any risk and plan for this event.

My client also requires further information with regard to construction traffic in general and how this may impact on the local road network in the vicinity of where the works are being undertaken as this may interfere with their ability to fulfil their delivery and collection obligations.

We would be grateful if you could treat this letter as a holding objection until such time as the above concerns have been addressed. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the above issues further with NCC and would be grateful if they or their appointed agent could make contact.

BNP Paribas Real Estate Advisory & Property Management UK Limited

Registered office: 5 Aldermanbury Square, London EC2V 7BP

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www.realestate.bnpparibas.co.uk



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I look forward to hearing from you further in due course; please direct correspondence to the above address.

Yours faithfully

Derry Mockett MRICS
Director
National Compulsory Purchase & Infrastructure Team